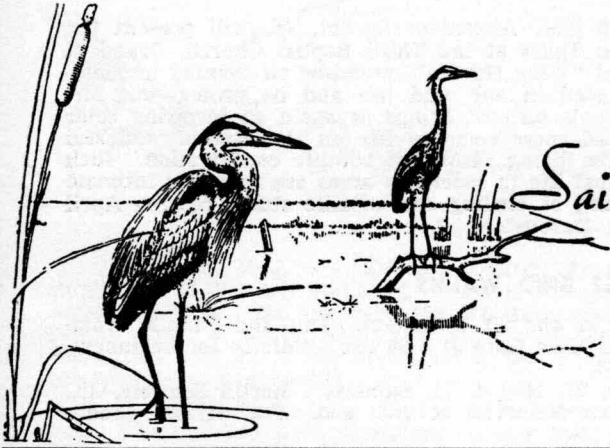




Saint Louis Audubon

BULLETIN

VOL. 20 NO. 3

APRIL 1952

1952 AUDUBON AWARDS

At the April 18 Screen Tour Meeting, Dean Wm. Glasgow Bowling and Alexander Sprunt, Jr., will present the Annual Audubon Awards. A one hundred dollar scholarship to an Audubon Nature Camp was awarded to Mrs. May O'Bryne, in recognition of her work in spreading interest in birds and the study of nature, particularly through Girl Scout activities. The award of Junior Audubon Silver Cup will be presented to Special 18, a class at the Scullin School. This is "in recognition of the outstanding achievement of this organization in bringing to the attention of the public wider interest in conservation and natural science." Mrs. Elinor Hayward, as instructor of the class will accept the cup in behalf of the room.

Nine boys and girls will receive scholarship memberships in the Audubon Society in recognition of their special interest in birds and conservation. They are: Philip Bonzon, James Bovis, Chuckie Gutz, Lloyd W. Hager, Lawrence Kinealy, James Mareschal, Jim Scott, Tosca Smith and Charles K. Wolf.

Carole Marie Hansen will receive a special award, Peterson's **A Field Guide to the Birds**, in recognition of her keen interest in the study of birds.

The series of Screen Tour Lectures will again be presented next season to the St. Louis School children, through the generosity of one of our members, and through cooperation of the Board of Education, supervised by the Audio-Visual Department, Miss Elizabeth Golterman, Director. All awards are made possible through Loyalty Fund Contributions of members.

SPRING PICNICS

Because of increased Audubon activities, together with increased operating costs, our Treasury has a deficit of almost \$750. In 1952, this deficit totaled almost \$1,000. With no reserve on which to draw, we are asking our members to attend our two Spring Picnics.

The first will be at the Charles M. Rice Sanctuary on Sunday, April 27, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. It is located near Highway 21, approximately twenty-five miles south of Lindbergh Boulevard, by 67-61.

The second will be at the residence of Waldemar A. Palm on Saturday, May 10, 4 to 9 p.m. It is located near Big Bend Boulevard, approximately 3.5 miles south of Lindbergh Boulevard, 61-61-By 67.

Directions and maps are enclosed with this Bulletin. For further information please telephone Mr. Earl Hath, TE 3-4104, or Mrs. Marshall Magner, WE 0265 W.

FINAL SCREEN TOUR

On Friday, April 18, 8:15 p.m., Alexander Sprunt, Jr., will present the last of the 1951-52 season's Screen Tours at the Third Baptist Church, Grand at Washington. His program, entitled "Wing Havens", promises an evening of pleasure for all of us who are interested in our wild life and its protection. Mr. Sprunt, well known to most St. Louis birders, brings us again an inspiring color motion picture of the glorious wilderness come to life on the screen. Colorful action sequences on film record the living results of wildlife conservation. Rich reservoirs of bird, plant and mammal life in sanctuary areas are shown in intimate detail. For an entertaining evening of birding and wildlife study, reserve April 18 for Alexander Sprunt's "Wing Havens".

1952 BIRD WALKS

SHAW'S GARDEN, April 19 and 26, Saturdays. Lois and Camille Wamhoff, Chairmen. Starting from the Main Gate at 8:30 a.m. Chiefly for beginners. For details, phone: FLanders 7786.

FOREST PARK, April 20, 27, May 4, 11, Sundays. Martin Schweig, Jr., Chairman. Starting from Jefferson Memorial at 7:30 a.m. For details, phone: PArkview 3414.

ANNUAL SPRING CENSUS

This census will be on May 4. It will be conducted on an all-day basis in conjunction with the morning Bird Walk, and will include the area within a fifty-mile radius of St. Louis. For details, phone R. Ludlow Hill, Chairman, STerling 7568.

THE ANNUAL MEETING

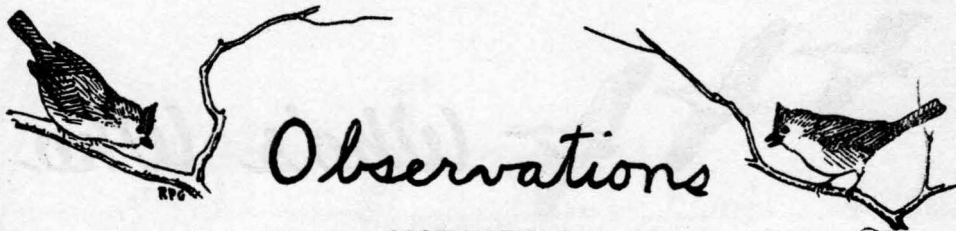
On May 15, at 8 p.m., John Wanamaker, of the Principia, Elsah, Illinois, will present a color slide talk at the Stix, Baer and Fuller Auditorium, ninth floor, Seventh Street Entrance. The talk, entitled, "In Quest of Vanishing Wildlife", is a special program event for our annual meeting. It is a travelogue through color slides, around the rim of the whole U.S.A. stopping off at sanctuaries, wildlife refuges, national parks, etc. Full of birds, animals and scenic splendors, it makes a wonderful preview for future vacations with nature for all of us.

A SUGGESTION

It has been suggested that we protest to the St. Louis Park Board the recent tree cutting and underbrush clearance in the wildlife area around the Express Highway west of Hampton Avenue. Certain areas should be left in a natural state to provide all-important cover and food for wildlife in our largest city park.

1952 BIRD NOTES

Like January, February was well above normal in temperature, permitting a great deal of pleasant birding activity. Dick Anderson and Earl Comfort started the ball rolling by finding an Old Squaw near the Alton Dam on February 3. Two days later Eugene Wilhelm added three American Scoters in the same area. The search for these scoters resulted in two White-winged Scoters being seen there on February 10 by Jack Van Benthuyzen. The White-wings and two Old Squaws remained there over three weekends and were added to many yearly lists as they passed in review floating down stream before they flew back up the river to repeat the performance. Other good February birds were the Evening Grosbeak, Bonaparte's Gull and the Goshawk. On March 1, we started the month off with the rare Harlan's Hawk in St. Charles County. Six of our rarest birds of 1952 were not reported in 1951. It should be a good year.



OBSERVATIONS

During 1951, 274 species of birds were identified within a radius of fifty miles of the city limits of St. Louis as compared to the record of 291 observed in 1950. The list included six subspecies and one hybrid. There were twenty kinds of ducks, eighteen members of the hawk family, thirty species of shorebirds and thirty-two members of the finch family. The thirty shorebirds recorded set a new record.

It was decided that the ten best birds of the year were probably the Great Black-backed Gull, Gyrfalcon, Glossy Ibis, Purple Gallinule, Knot, Marbled Godwit, Reddish Egret, Red-shafted Flicker, Yellow Palm Warbler and Whistling Swan. Other rare or unusual species for our area were: the Common Loon, Horned Grebe, Eared Grebe, White Pelican, Snowy Egret, Yellowcrowned Night Heron, White-fronted Goose, Hutchin's Goose, Lesser Canada Goose, Greater Scaup Duck, Red-breasted Merganser, Goshawk, Pigeon Hawk, Duck Hawk, Western Red-tailed Hawk, Krider's Hawk, Harlan's Hawk, Florida Gallinule, Piping Plover, Western Willet, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Avocet, Northern Phalarope, Wilson's Phalarope, Turnstone, Franklin's Gull, Bonaparte's Gull, Saw-whet Owl, Barn Owl, Long-eared Owl, Arkansas Kingbird, Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, Philadelphia Vireo, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Brewster's Warbler (a hybrid), Cape May Warbler, Pine Warbler, Connecticut Warbler, Hooded Warbler, Evening Grosbeak, Siskin, Pine-woods Sparrow, Blue Grosbeak, Harris' Sparrow, Nelson's Sparrow and Henslow's Sparrow. There were fourteen listers with 200 or more species, which is an all-time high. Alberta Bollinger was the sole feminine birder reporting more than 200, a distinction that has been hers for many years.

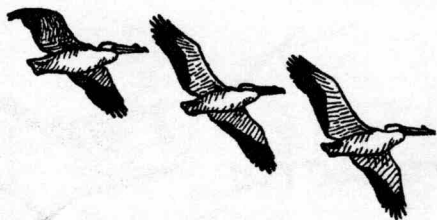
Jack Van Benthuyzen and Earl Comfort tied for the lead with 254 species, followed by Eugene Wilhelm with 248, Dick Anderson, 243, and Bill Bremser, 242. Others who made the "200" Club were George Cameron, Alberta Bolinger, Jim Comfort, David Jones, Jimmy Ziervogel, Mark Tuttle, Kurt Wesselring, Bill Foster and Bill Groth. All of the 274 species were found on the Missouri side with the exception of Glossy Ibis, Black-eyed Gull and Florida Gallinule.

Bill Groth started the new year off with the exciting find of three Glacous Gulls at the Marais Temps Clair Marshes on January 1. The following day, Eugene Wilhelm also found one of the large all white gulls there. Later in the day he located four Snow Buntings near St. Peters. Jack Van Benthuyzen got a good start with a Spotted Towhee near Webster Groves on January 9. This rare towhee was again "spotted" there on January 11 by Earl Comfort and on January 19 by David Jones. Thus, with only nine days of the new year gone we had already contributed three rare birds not seen during 1951. Yes, birding is like that!

On January 1, the old stand-bys, the Long-eared Owls and the Short-eared Owls in St. Charles County were located with comparative ease. At the Smart Air Field we were surprised when the unusual number of 14 Short-eared Owls were flushed from thick, dry grass. The many pellets indicated the owls had used this particular spot for some time. Usually our Short-eared are scattered over a wider area in this field.

A rare Red-breasted Nuthatch at the Otto's feeder in St. Louis County has been listed by many visitors to date. This bird has never been known to fail to appear for anyone. This method of listing is closely akin to "armchair birding."

James Earl Comfort



Who's Who

A request has been made to replace sixteen pints of blood used for transfusion during Mildred Reese's recent operation. Blood donors will be welcomed at St. Anthony's Hospital, 3520 Chippewa on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Fridays from 1 to 5 p.m., Wednesday from 1 to 6:30 p.m., and on Saturdays from 1 to 3 p.m.

TO LEAD BIRD WALKS: Florence Brent, James Earl Comfort, Rex Conyers, Mrs. Elinor Hayward, Ludlow Hill, Bill Hurst, Norman R. D. Jones, Marshall Magner, John McGuire, Paul Neuhoff, Chip Reay, Henry Stere, Mark Tuttle and Jim Ziervogel.

Approximately 115 people attended the outing on the Busch Estate at Sappington, Missouri, on Highway 30, March 30, 1952. Several carloads from Alton were present sponsored by Father George M. Link of Michael, Illinois. A guide conducted the "train" of thirty-five cars through the large animal range and up to the barnhof. The party went through the stables and carriage house. The afternoon was rounded out by a picnic lunch along the stream, by the lake and waterfall.

Volunteers are needed to help with cutting stencils and mimeographing. Considerable expense can be saved if this type of work is donated once in a while. Call Mrs. Marshall Magner, Webster 0265 W.

SERVICE ITEMS AVAILABLE

Peterson: Field Guide to the Birds	\$3.50
Wherry: Wild Flower Guide	3.50
Swain: Insect Guide	3.50
Bird Picture Note Cards, box of 20, in color, with envelopes	1.00
Wildflower Note Cards, box of 20, in color, with envelopes	1.00
Bird Picture Postcards, box of 32, in color	1.00
Wildflower Postcards, box of 32, in color	1.00

Make checks to St. Louis Audubon Society. Send to W. R. Hecht, Box 4206, Tower Grove Station, St. Louis 16, Mo. Telephone orders, MOhawk 5752.

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